

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL  
Current Handling: n/a

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PTQ9002

E32

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03403 01 OF 02 152322Z RELEASED IN PART  
ACTION WHA-00 B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	CTME-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	EXIM-01	E-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00
	SAS-00	/010W					

-----86A0DB 152322Z /30

O 152258Z APR 02  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8167  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
NSC WASHDC  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHDC  
DIRONDCP WASHDC

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 03403 01 OF 02 152322Z  
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 003403

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/15/12  
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, ECON, OAS, CO  
SUBJECT: TFVE01: COLOMBIAN REACTION TO VENEZUELAN  
SITUATION

REF: A) STATE 70877 B) BOGOTA 3355

CLASSIFIED BY CDA KEN ELLIS. REASONS 1.5 (B, D).

1. (C) SUMMARY: TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE STATE OF FLUX IN  
VENEZUELA (SEE REF B), COLOMBIAN ANALYSTS PRESS AND  
POLITICAL FIGURES HAVE PRESSED CHAVEZ FOR INTERNAL  
REFORMS AND FOR FULL DISCLOSURE OF ALLEGED RELATIONSHIP  
WITH THE FARC. PRESIDENT PASTRANA INDIRECTLY CRITICIZED

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS  
DATE/CASE ID: 30 AUG 2004 200400110

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CHAVEZ BEFORE THE RIO GROUP, BY CONDEMNING THOSE COUNTRIES THAT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT COLOMBIAN INSURGENTS. DESPITE POSITIVE PRONOUNCEMENTS BY CHAVEZ AND HIS AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA, ROY CHADERTON, ANALYSTS REMAIN DOUBTFUL OF MEANINGFUL PROGRESS OVER THE SHORT TERM. [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] END SUMMARY.

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POLITICAL OBSERVERS URGE REFORM  
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2. (U) POLITICAL ANALYSTS IN COLOMBIA BELIEVE CHAVEZ HAS BOTH GAINED AND LOST AS A RESULT OF RECENT EVENTS: ON ONE HAND, THE MASSIVE TURNOUT OF CHAVEZ SUPPORTERS WAS AN  
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PAGE 03            BOGOTA 03403 01 OF 02 152322Z  
AFFIRMATION OF HIS REMAINING POPULARITY, WHICH MAY STRENGTHEN HIM IN FUTURE STRUGGLES WITH THE OPPOSITION; ON THE OTHER HAND, CHAVEZ WILL NOW FACE AN EVEN MORE-DIVIDED MILITARY, PLAGUED BY BITTERNESS AND SUSPICION. LASTLY, VENEZUELA'S STRUGGLING ECONOMY REMAINS PROBLEMATIC. COLOMBIAN POLITICAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER, CHAVEZ MUST FIND AND PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLENCE OF THE PAST WEEK, AND AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF SEEKING REVENGE AGAINST THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN HIS OUSTER.

3. (U) COLOMBIAN OBSERVERS AGREE THAT CHAVEZ MUST BE LESS AUTHORITARIAN IN GOVERNING, AND TOLERANT OF THE DIVERSE OPINIONS IN THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THOSE OF HIS TRADITIONAL ADVERSARIES. POLITICAL EXPERTS WELCOMED AS A "GOOD START" CHAVEZ'S PROMISE TO REVERSE HIS CONTROVERSIAL PUBLIC FIRINGS AT THE VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM COMPANY (PVDSA) -- ORDERS WHICH TOUCHED OFF LAST WEEK'S VIOLENT PROTESTS. COLOMBIAN COMMENTATORS ALSO ASSERT THAT CHAVEZ MUST CORRECT HIS ERRATIC POLICIES, AND PROMOTE GENUINE CHANGE. MOST OBSERVERS CONCUR THAT CHAVEZ'S TOUGHEST CHALLENGE WILL BE TO REGAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF VENEZUELA'S DISILLUSIONED MIDDLE CLASS.

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FARC: WHERE DOES CHAVEZ STAND?  
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4. (U) IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE RIO GROUP MEETING IN SAN JOSE, PRESIDENT PASTRANA DELIVERED A THINLY-VEILED SLAP AT CHAVEZ, HARSHLY CRITICIZING THOSE COUNTRIES IN THE

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PAGE 04            BOGOTA 03403 01 OF 02 152322Z  
REGION THAT "PROTECT THE GUERRILLAS." JIMMY CHAMORRO,  
PRESIDENT OF THE (LARGELY SYMBOLIC) SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN RELATIONS, SAID THAT "COLOMBIA HAS MANY WORRIES  
ABOUT THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT CHAVEZ WITH RESPECT TO  
THE GUERRILLAS AND OUR INTERNAL CONFLICT." HE ADDED THAT  
"AS LONG AS COLOMBIANS DO NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE  
PRESUMED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHAVEZ AND THE FARC, WE  
WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE THIS CLIMATE OF DISTRUST."

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STATEMENT OF VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR  
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5. (U) ROY CHADERTON, THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO  
COLOMBIA (AND SOON TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.),  
PREDICTED THAT THE GOC-GOV RELATIONSHIP WILL EVENTUALLY  
IMPROVE: "THE EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL EVENTS IN COLOMBIA  
AND THE EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT CHAVEZ TO CONSOLIDATE THESE  
RELATIONSHIPS AND TO MULTIPLY THEM, WILL PERMIT, SOONER  
THAN LATER, A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF  
OUR RELATIONSHIP." CHADERTON, HOWEVER, DID NOT MISS THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO CHASTISE COLOMBIAN CRITICS OF CHAVEZ,

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CONFIDENTIAL            PTQ9003

PAGE 01            BOGOTA 03403 02 OF 02 152323Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	CTME-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	EXIM-01	E-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00
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	SAS-00	/010W					

-----86A0E8 152323Z /30

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AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
NSC WASHDC  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHDC  
DIRONDCP WASHDC

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PAGE 02                    BOGOTA 03403 02 OF 02 152323Z  
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 003403

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CALLING THEM "RECALCITRANT ELEMENTS." BOGOTA DAILY "EL  
TIEMPO" WELCOMED CHADERTON'S UPBEAT REMARKS, BUT  
PREDICTED THAT TENSIONS WOULD REMAIN HIGH FOR THE  
IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

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PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES REACT  
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6. (U) YESTERDAY, LIBERAL-DISSIDENT PRESIDENTIAL  
CANDIDATE ALVARO URIBE VELEZ ASKED THE REINSTATED CHAVEZ  
TO STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH COLOMBIA, AND NOT TO GIVE  
REFUGE TO THE FARC IN VENEZUELAN TERRITORY. LIBERAL  
CANDIDATE HORACIO SERPA SAID, IN A CLEAR REFERENCE TO  
CHAVEZ, THAT "AUTHORITARIANISM AND IMPROVISATION ARE  
ENEMIES OF COEXISTENCE" BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS.

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